

Community Emergency Response Team



Clifton, VA

Eric Jackson/Paula Clements
Sept 2016

DISASTERS HAPPEN



Sometimes
with
Warning

Sometimes
Without
Warning



ARE YOU READY?



NWS photo by Mike Branick

According to FEMA, typically:

- About 100 Nationally Declared (major) Disasters every year
- About 2 in Virginia
- And many, many more smaller, local disasters



Local Disasters

- **Hurricanes** (Sandy)
- **Flooding** (Huntington)
- **Derecho** (6/2012)
- **Tornados** (7/24/2014)
- **Earthquakes** (8/2011)
- **Wildfires**
- **Pandemic**
- **Power Outages**
- **Traffic Disruptions**
- **Severe Winter Storm** (1/2016)
- **Ice Storm**
- **Terrorist Attack**



Climate Change is Here

It doesn't matter if it is caused by man or not, all evidence indicates climate change is real:

- More weather events
- More severe weather events



Who do you call?

Fairfax County has an outstanding Fire Department

- Well trained professionals
- Outstanding Resources
- Excellent Response Time (normally)



But: They may not always be available!

Fairfax County Fire Department

About 300 firefighters on duty – for 1.2 million residents and visitors, commuters, . . .

During a major disaster, professional responders may be overwhelmed

During the Derecho, 911 service was **DOWN!**



When a Disaster Occurs

Resources are deployed to the highest priorities first

Professional responders may be busy elsewhere

Roads may be blocked

We may be on our own
- for days!



The Fairfax County Office of
Emergency Management
recommends every resident in
Fairfax County be prepared to be
on their own for up to 72 hours
following a major disaster!

Be Prepared

Make a Plan

Build a Kit

Stay Informed

Get Involved

Take care of yourself, your family, your pets, and your home for several days without outside help

Individual Preparedness

Many resources available:

- FEMA
 - Ready Virginia
 - Fairfax OEM
- Red Cross
Fairfax CERT
NOAA-NWS



Make a Plan

Every family should have a plan that fits their individual and unique situation.

Meeting places

Communications Planning

Out of town contact

Schools

Special Needs

Pets

Shelter in Place



Test the Plan

Conduct a home fire drill (with and without warning)

Periodically update the plan to keep up with changes in the family

Post the Plan



Build Emergency Kits to Stay

72 Hour Kit

[No power, no water, no cash machine, no help]

Water

Medicines

Flashlights

Batteries

Tools

Special Needs for babies; children; elderly; pets . .



Food

First Aid Kit

Radio

Sanitation

Entertainment

Build Emergency Kits to Go

GO KIT: If you have to evacuate on short notice

Documents

Medicines

Flashlights

Batteries



Maps

First Aid Kit

Radio

Tools

Special Needs for babies; children;
elderly; pets . . .

Stay Informed

Fairfax County ALERTS

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts

New System established
in 2014

Formerly CEAN
(Community Emergency Alert Network)



Ready.gov

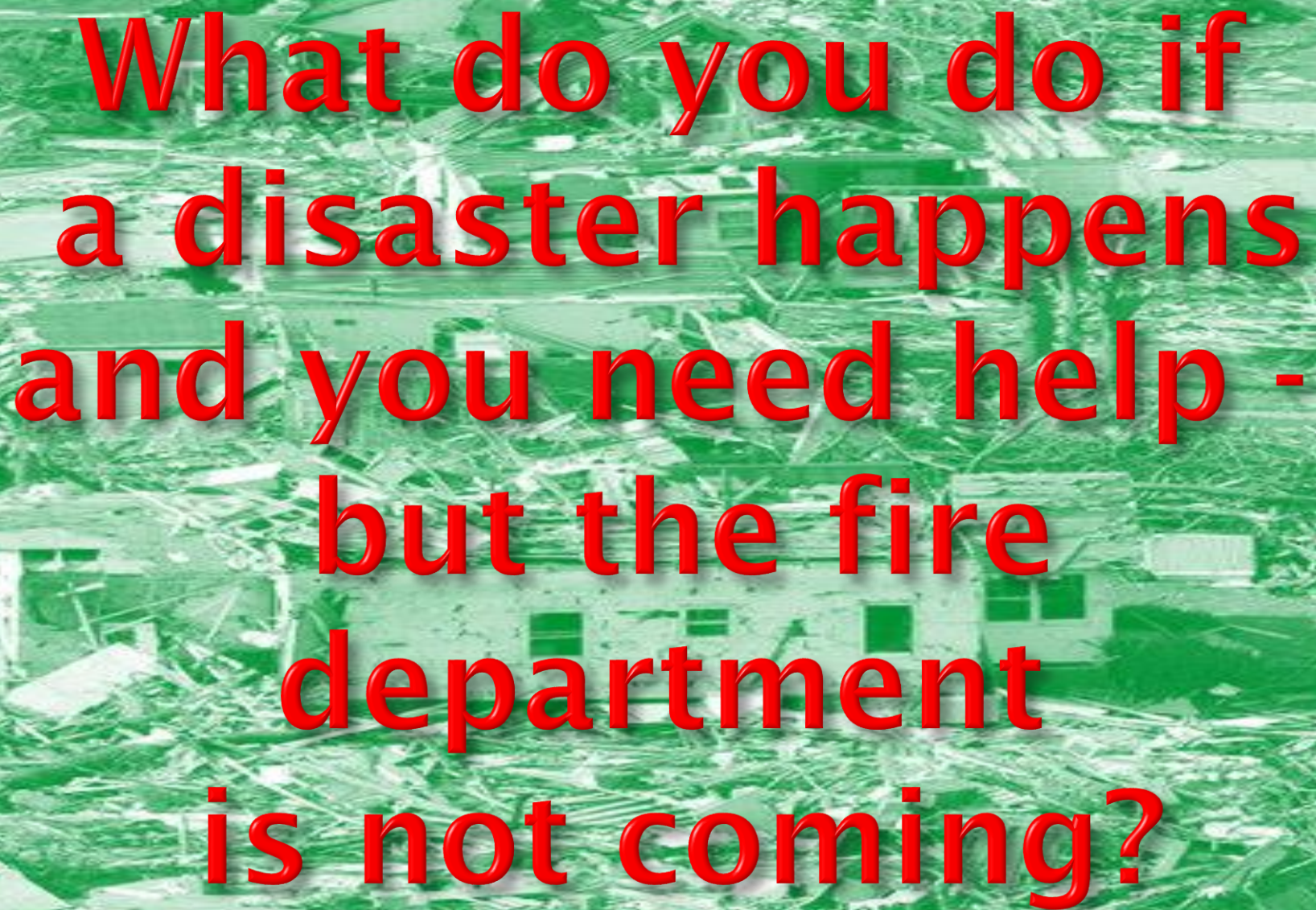
[Red Cross](#)

ReadyVirginia.gov

GET INVOLVED

There are a lot of ways to get involved in emergency preparedness – one of the best is



The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a city, possibly New York City, showing a dense grid of streets and buildings. The entire image has a green color overlay and a fine grid pattern, giving it a textured, digital appearance.

**What do you do if
a disaster happens
and you need help -
but the fire
department
is not coming?**

“CERT 101”

CERT is part of the Citizens Corps – a collection of volunteer organizations that serve the community

The CERT program provides basic emergency preparedness, prevention, response, and mitigation training, and

CERT TRAINING IS FREE



CERT HISTORY

1980s – Los Angeles recognized that people want to help when a disaster happens, but are not always properly prepared. LA developed a basic training program.



1990s – FEMA adopted and adapted the program for a National audience; but it is administered locally

Basic CERT

When a disaster occurs, properly trained citizens can do a lot to help themselves and their neighbors –

“Do the most good for the most people in the shortest time.”

“Create Resilient Communities.”

“Don’t bring another victim to the disaster.”

CERT TEACHES

Prevention – safety practices

Preparedness – things to do now to reduce the impact of a disaster

Protection – how to survive a disaster

Response– what you can do to help your community after a disaster



Basic CERT Course

Training is Free

Issued Equipment is Free

Approximately 25 hours

Typically 3 hour classes

One evening a week

7-8 weeks



CERT Classes

Fairfax Fire and Rescue Academy

Typically 15-40

Students per class

Over 2000 trained



CERT Classes

Local Classes at fire stations,
community centers, churches



CERT CLASS TOPICS

General Emergency Preparedness

CERT Organization

Basic Medical Operations

Light Search and Rescue

Basic Fire Suppression

Disaster Psychology

Terrorism

Hazardous Materials

Disaster Simulations



Practical Training

Lots of hands on activities



and exercises



Realistic Exercises



Victim Actors Add Realism

Volunteers role play – provide excellent training opportunities for student responders and victim actors



Be Resourceful

We teach how to do the best you can with what is available –

Duct Tape
Plastic Bags
T Shirts



Safety is First

No one is asked to do more than they are comfortable doing

There are no prerequisites – other than being interested

There is a role for
EVERYONE



But Wait – There's More!

Once you complete the basic course, there are a lot of other opportunities to train, exercise, and serve the community –

- if you are interested

[and, of course, it's **FREE**]



More Training

Additional Classes are offered –

CPR/AED

First Aid

Flood Response

Metro Safety

Infectious Control

**Emergency Response for the disabled
and more . . .**

HAZMAT Awareness

Disaster Animal Care

Mental Health First Aid

High Voltage Safety

Advanced S&R

More Exercises

DELMARVA Search and Rescue

Capital Shield – with local military units

Fairfax Fire and Rescue

CERTCON

Metro Exercises

Fire and Police

Exercises



Metro Training

6/14/2014

Fairfax CERT

DC CERT

PG CERT



Arlington CERT

Montgomery CERT



Community Service

Support local events



Girls on the Run 5k

and community
preparedness outreach





FAIRFAX • 2015
WORLD
POLICE & FIRE
GAMES

June 26 – July 5 2015

www.fairfax2015.com

What if?

If a disaster did happen here and you wanted to help – where would you start?

CERT Training
helps answer
this question.



Basic Classes

Offered several times per year at the Fire and Rescue Academy

Can be taught at local venues if there is enough interest

Classes can be tailored to meet specific requirements of a group or organization

More Information

Fairfax: www.fairfaxcountycert.org

FEMA: www.ready.gov

VDEM: www.readyvirginia.gov

Jonathan Kiell – jona3ki@msn.com

Questions?

Thank you
and
BE SAFE

